



Department of Justice

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WILMINGTON CAREER CRIMINAL SENTENCED TO 12 YEARS FOR NARCOTICS AND FIREARMS CRIMES

Third Drug Conviction in the Last Five Years

Dwayne T. Hale, age 24, of Wilmington, Delaware, was sentenced today to twelve years in prison for possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine, and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a narcotics trafficking crime, in violation of federal law. David C. Weiss, United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, made the announcement following the pronouncement of the sentence by United States District Judge Joseph J. Farnan, Jr.

According to statements made at the hearing and documents filed in court, Hale was a passenger in a vehicle stopped by Wilmington Police officers in the 2100 block of Pine Street on December 5, 2008. When asked for identification, Hale and another man provided false names and dates of birth. After a records check revealed this false information, the officers removed Hale and another man from the vehicle and handcuffed Hale. Another officer then spotted a loaded 9 millimeter handgun on the vehicle's floor, where Hale was seated. Upon realizing that the officer had seen the gun, Hale attempted to break free of the officer's grasp and flee the scene. After a brief struggle, Hale was subdued and taken into custody. Upon arriving at the booking facility, Hale removed 3.98 grams of crack cocaine from his rectum.

Following the sentencing hearing, United States Attorney David C. Weiss noted that this was Mr. Hale's third conviction for possession with intent to distribute narcotics in the last five years. Mr. Weiss stated, "The use of handguns in furtherance of drug trafficking crimes has

contributed to the gun violence in our city streets. The sentence handed down today should send a message that those who make a career out of dealing drugs and using guns in the streets of Wilmington will be severely punished.”

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